

# Wichita Eagle

## WHAT THE GORILLA DID.

HE INVENTED THE CANE, WHICH IS NOW SOMEWHAT IN DISREPUTE.

Walking Sticks and Opera Glasses So Popular with the General Public That English and American Savillians Have Given Them Up, at Least Temporarily.

The English savillians who frequent the "sweet, shady side of Pall Mall" no longer carry canes, and the British female of high degree can now be singled out at the theatre because she sports a monocle in place of a lorgnette. An edict has been issued by high caste London against the use of



THE ORIGINAL CANE CARRIER. walking sticks or opera glasses, and the effects of the mandate are already to be observed at the fashionable and sympathetic centers of America.

What is the reason for the boycott? American savillians can be ascribed a "blatant Yankee manufacturer" is responsible. His agents at the English capital sent him samples of the styles in canes and lorgnettes affected by the aristocracy, and he promptly flooded the British market with cheap and gaudy imitations, which were popular at once among the commonalty. And so it chanced that my Lord Tommody encountered his own valet on the street sporting a flashy semblance of his costly stick, and my Lady Teazle detected her maid scrutinizing her from the pit with the aid of a gilt "double magnifying" peeper, "as glittering and 'distasteful' as the one she herself carried.

Naturally this sort of thing was not to be borne, and so, as a recent writer has it, the London swell "curled his stick and cast it out," and the high bred society woman in a miller, but equally emphatic way got rid of her opera glass. Of course the "important news" lost no time in traveling to America, and had its expected effect upon Anglo-Americans this side of the big pond.



I wonder if the gorilla has heard the intelligence and seeks badly for its "strange quarry." Not at all, for the gorilla was the first animal to carry a cane, and the club he lugged around with him through African forests and across tropical swamps was as ingeniously hideous in appearance as some of the modern designs just discarded. Generally it was a branch

born from a tree or a plant of stiff fiber, and it had a big knob of root or joint at its end, and served excellently well for purposes of defense, support or attack. After ages of evolution no more can be urged in defense of the quantity designed and superbly mounted stick which will now join in retirement the society leader's three worn trousers.

Yet this degree of fashion may be expected to have no effect outside certain limited circles. The staff must necessarily always be the refuge of old age or decrepitude, and it has and will retain an honorable place in history despite the grotesque exaggerations so often perpetrated on its unoffending head.

Primitive man used a cane. Perhaps he got the idea from his predecessor on this earth—the gorilla; possibly he evolved from his own slow working brain the proposition that a shillalah was a handy thing with which to correct a soulding wife or slay a wild boar. At any rate, he adopted and improved on the original suggestion of his sinian predecessor and made it the subject of the first conundrum known to literature. "What animal," asked the Sphinx, "walks upon four legs in the morning, two at noon and three in the evening?" The riddle was propounded to Odipus, the crafty Grecian. He had to guess it or die, and he replied: "O Sphinx, the answer is, man. As an infant he crawls, in the prime of life he uses his feet, and when old he aids them with a staff. Ask me another!"

came in front of you in the early morning. In the afternoon you must have a grip on it near the middle and never allow the female to touch the sidewalk. In the evening, when the stars are out, you must keep passing it from hand to hand, and occasionally best a tattoo with it on the ground. There is not a man in a thousand who knows how to carry a cane."

What will a gentleman of this sort do in view of the recent London order? Think of ten hundred sticks, used to artistic manipulation, retired to a lumber room! At least the "luncheon swell" and his American imitator may get consolation from knowing that in the Middle Ages canes were the badges of fools and jesters, and that in abandoning them they have cut off the modern humorist from one source of gibe and income.

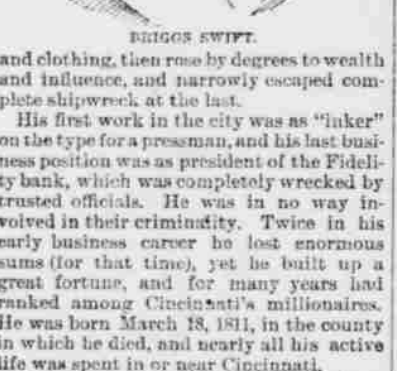
As for the opera glass, it will also survive the shock of haughty disapproval, and be again received to favor. Miss Disdain and Miss Curiosity will hardly be content with gazing, unaided by the optician's art, at stage or audience, and in the end may condescend to share with Mary Jane the benefits and scrutiny of the lorgnette.

FRED C. DATTO.

### STARTED AS A PRINTER.

The Career Ups and Downs of a Cincinnati Millionaire.

The career of Mr. Briggs Swift, who died recently at his suburban home near Cincinnati, is a striking illustration of the possibilities of success and failure in American life, and especially western life, during this century. He began without a cent and worked some years of boyhood for no compensation but his board



and clothing, then rose by degrees to wealth and influence, and narrowly escaped complete shipwreck at the last.

His first work in the city was as "lifter" on the type for a pressman, and his last business position was as president of the Fidelity bank, which was completely wrecked by trusted officials. He was in no way involved in their criminality. Twice in his early business career he lost enormous sums (for that time), yet he built up a great fortune, and for many years had ranked among Cincinnati's millionaires.

He was born March 18, 1811, in the county in which he died, and nearly all his active life was spent in or near Cincinnati.

At the age of 13 he left his father's farm and began work in a printing office, part of his duties being to carry The Semi-weekly and Weekly Gazette to patrons on what was called the "bottom route." After The Gazette became a daily, he was made manager of a floor mill and pork packer, and his ups and downs in business were remarkable, but he worked ahead and finally the firm of Swift, Evans & Co. became a noted one in the west. He was married in 1836, and leaves two daughters.

Run in Old Fashioned Style.

The oldest paper mill in the United States is at Roslyn, L. I., and it is run by Meyer Valentine, who claims to be the oldest paper maker in the United States. Ap-

propriately enough, the mill is still run in the old fashioned style. The machinery is cumbersome, the motive power is running water, and on clear days one may see the wet paper spread upon the grass to dry. The mill is 150 years old, and the present owner, who is 70, inherited it from his father, who was running it during the Revolution, when George Washington visited Roslyn.

A Real Creole Cook.

Aside from a few private homes, there is only one place in New York where a real creole gumbo file, or a real creole doube, can be had, and that is a little restaurant upon the third floor of a large brick house on University place.

The restaurateur is an old creole himself, who is satisfied with an average of twenty customers a day.

He both cooks and serves the food himself, having but one assistant, who washes the pots and kettles and dishes and keeps things clean generally.

But old Meizet Maritani is a famous cook, and could command a large salary should he listen to some of his friends. He speaks no English, and in fact no French or Spanish, but simply the real old New Orleans creole dialect, which is a mixture of both French and Spanish.

The gumbo file he serves is a marvel. It is a great favorite with Dr. Chaucer M. Depey and Mr. H. Walter Webb, the third vice president of the New York Central railroad. It is a sort of soup, made of chicken meat, crabs, shrimp or crawfish, bacon, eggs, okra, saffron, and flavored with the old sherry wine. Just before it is served a quantity of grated boiled potatoes and flour and plenty of seasoning is added. It is a whole meal in itself.—New York Journal.

Bridgegroom Was Confused.

A resident clergyman, who has a keen relish for humor, tells of an incident in the professional experience of a clerical friend. The clergyman referred to had been engaged to perform the marriage service, and the expectant bride and groom were standing before him in the church. The service had proceeded as far as the question:

"Wilt thou take this woman to be thy wedded wife?"

No response being made, the question was repeated a little more emphatically: "Wilt thou take this woman to be thy wedded wife?"

"Eh—ah—beg pardon. Were you speaking to me, sir?"

He was assured of the fact; and having regained consciousness the twin were quickly made one.—Pittsburgh Times.

## FASHIONS OF THE FAIR.

OLIVE HARPER DISCUSSES THE LATEST MODES.

Her Letter Has to do Especially with Furs and Satin and Wraps and Esquisite Gowns for Evening Wear—Revival of the Old Striped Balmoral.

[Special Correspondence.]

NEW YORK, Nov. 27.—There must have been a terrible slaughter of animals last year to furnish all the skins that are being worn and displayed in the stores. Everybody has some kind of fur, either in a long circular cape made of sealskin with shoulders at least five inches high and a collar that reaches



ELEGANT WINTER WRAPS.

up to the ears, and the whole lined with squirrel skin, or a jacket, an ulster or a wrap, and all kinds of fur are used. Jackets of sealskin are trimmed with bands of leopard skin, and shawl capes are made of leopard, bear, tiger and wildcat or lynx. In fact, the only fur unrepresented it seems to me is that of the opossum and pig. Dog there is, and cat I am sure, so that it is comparatively easy to be in fashion as far as furs go.

Very pretty novelties in trimming are made by applique in Kd, leather or velvet outlined in beads or gilt braid. The skirt to be trimmed should have the front breadth quite plain and wider than usual, and the applique can be put on in perpendicular figures or a horizontal band which reaches around to the back breadth. The leather makes a rather stiff trimming, which is suitable for serge and cloth, while kid is more suitable for soft vicunas and tricoats, and velvet can be used on anything with equal propriety and effect. The pattern should be stamped on the material and be applied and lasted to the goods, after which that portion to be cut away is removed with a sharp pair of scissors. The edge can be turned in and hemmed down, or laid flat and buttoned on, which is the best way. Only a little should be cut out at a time.

Satin is now being displayed as the "high novelty" in very thick and excellent quality, black being the favorite, made up with some combination of color. A magnificent gown of this kind was recently imported for a lady of my acquaintance. The dress was cut princess, en traine, and had waist drapery and sash made of gold colored sat. The front breadth was of gold color and black brocade. The sleeves were made with slashes of gold and black satin, and the whole gown was most superb, though comparatively simple.

Noticed recently a great quantity of striped petticoats in colored wool, which are the revival of the old Balmoral skirts over which our mothers used to loop their dresses in festoons. They are in sizes for women and tiny little girls,



BEAUTIFUL DINNER TABLE.

and I suppose you will have to wear them next spring, possibly this winter. The stripes go around the bottom and are of graduated width, and I think them anything but pretty. They are sewed on deep yokes at the top, which would indicate that the sheath things gowns are in to stay; for these things somehow all have a relation to each other.

Serge du nord is a new goods which has borderings of tufted material imitating astrakhan as closely as possible, and above this slender pattern in outline braidings are added.

Millions of bushels of cotton seed have been thrown away in the various states of the south. But now it is utilized in the manufacture of ingenious products, and promises to be the chief source of many kinds of oils.

Nearly 2,000 electric cars are running in the United States. Boston alone has about one hundred miles of electrically operated roads. Several systems have been developed to a perfection that insures smooth and regular service. Other systems are still more or less in the experimental stage.

## The Origin of Visiting Cards.

If one may believe all one reads visiting cards are of Chinese origin. The story goes that so long ago as the period of the T'ang dynasty (618-907) they were in common use in China, and that is also the date of the introduction of the "red silken cords" which figure so conspicuously on the engagement cards of that country. From very ancient times to the present day the Chinese have observed the strict ceremony with regard to the paying of visits. The cards which they use for this purpose are very large and usually of a bright red color. When a Chinaman desires to marry, his parents intimate that to a professional "matchmaker" who thereupon runs through the list of her visiting acquaintances, and selects one whom she considers a fitting bride for the young man, and then she calls upon the young woman's parents, armed with the bridegroom's card on which are inscribed his ancestral name, and the eight symbols which denote the day of his birth. If the answer is an acceptance of his suit the bride's card is sent in return, and should the oracles prophesy good concerning the union the particulars of the engagement are written on two large cards tied together with red cords.

Brandy, Gin, Rum.

Brandy is made from wine. Alcohol, which is pure spirits of wine, is naturally a liquid without any color and much lighter in weight than water, and it requires a very great amount of cold to freeze it. This would seem to indicate that brandy has been burned, and the only genuine brandy is obtained from wine by distillation. As it comes from the still it is white, and colored afterward by burned sugar, etc. Brandy can be made also from corn and potatoes. Gin is so named from gentian, the name for juniper, the berries of which are used to give it a flavor. The spirit itself is distilled from fermented corn. Rum is distilled from a mixture of molasses, and its name, signifying rich, describes it fairly well. Whisky is distilled from fermented barley. The name from the Irish word "uisque" meaning the water of life. Time is found in spirits an oil which is very disagreeable, and so strong that a single drop will flavor many gallons. What is called "proof spirit" is a mixture of nearly equal volumes of pure alcohol and water.

Events That Occurred on Friday.

Washington born on Friday.

Queen Victoria married on Friday.

Napoleon Bonaparte born on Friday.

Battle of Bunker Hill fought on Friday.

America discovered on Friday.

Myfower landed on Friday.

Joan of Arc burned at the stake on Friday.

Battle of Waterloo fought on Friday.

Battle destroyed on Friday.

Declaration of Independence signed on Friday.

Battle of Marston fought on Friday.

Julius Caesar assassinated on Friday.

Moscow burned on Friday.

Shakespeare born on Friday.

King Charles I beheaded on Friday.

Battle of New Orleans fought on Friday.

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